

# Michigan School Readiness Program

Michigan Department of Education  
Office of School Excellence

Curriculum, Birth – Grade 12  
Early Childhood and Parenting Programs  
P.O. Box 30008  
Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: (517) 373-8483 – Fax: (517) 335-0592

January 2002 Update



## NEW LOCATION FOR THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL EXCELLENCE

The Office of School Excellence is now located on the fourth floor of the John A. Hannah Building. Phones are now operating, computers up and most files and papers out of boxes and accessible. It is our goal to serve you in our endeavor to provide high quality educational experiences for all very young children and their families. Staff apologize for any inconveniences as a result of the major production of moving our offices!

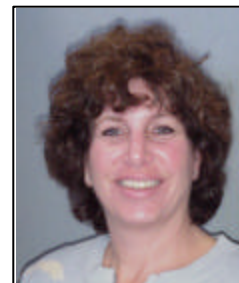
## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUILDING SECURITY

All visitors to the Michigan Department of Education and all government buildings should plan to spend additional time to pass through security. Access points are limited to pedestrian entry only and visitors must provide a valid form of identification in order to obtain a visitor's pass. Staff from Early Childhood and Parenting Programs have been encouraged to arrange meetings outside the building whenever possible as all visitors to the building require a security check and an escort to proceed through the building. It is preferable for reports and applications to be submitted electronically when possible.

Reports that do not require original signatures may be faxed, (517) 335-0592, or mailed to the Michigan Department of Education, Early Childhood and Parenting Programs, P.O. Box 30008, Lansing, MI 48909. Express mail delivery must always include Early Childhood and Parenting Programs and the general telephone contact (517) 373-8483.

## Welcome!!

Early Childhood and Parenting Programs is happy to welcome **Judy Levine** as our newest team member. Some of you may know Judy from her many years working with the Division of Child Day Care Licensing as an Area Manager and editor of *Michigan Child Care Matters*. Judy brings an abundance of knowledge and expertise to support high quality Early Childhood and Parenting Programs. "I am thrilled to be here and look forward to working with you. Your work is so important in providing a foundation for children's success in life. Where I can be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact me."



Judy will assume the responsibilities of lead contact for the MSRP Competitive Grants as well as offer support to the field for MSRP State Aid and the Child Care and Development Fund for Three-Year-Old Children grantees. Please take the opportunity to introduce yourself and welcome Judy to Michigan's team of early childhood specialists.

Phone: (517) 373-8664

e-mail: [levinejd@michigan.gov](mailto:levinejd@michigan.gov)

# BUDGET NEWS



## FUNDS FOR MSRP COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR FY 2002 HAVE BEEN REDUCED

Six hundred fifty thousand dollars, or 5 percent of the total budget for MSRP **Competitive** Grants, is currently being recovered by the state. The Michigan Department of Education has agreed to allow grantees to choose a “pupil count day” prior to December 20, 2001 on which the most children were enrolled. **(Please note: This count day does not include programs funded through the State School Aid Act.)** The MSRP Competitive Grant will be reduced by recovering funds for the number of slots not filled on or before December 20, 2001. A memorandum to MSRP Competitive grant contacts including the

**MSRP Child Count Day: Competitive Programs Only** report form was mailed November 29, 2001. An original and one (1) copy of the form were due on or before December 20, 2001. If you have questions or concerns, please call (517) 373-8483.

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## LONGITUDINAL FINDINGS FROM THE EVALUATION OF MICHIGAN SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM

The findings are exciting; the news is great for MSRP! MSRP operates in 467 districts and 65 agencies with 1,000 classrooms serving 25,909 four-year-old children who may be “at risk” of educational failure. Longitudinal findings from the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation’s evaluation project began in 1995. Teacher ratings of school adjustment (readiness) behaviors have consistently demonstrated significant differences in favor of the MSRP group in the results from grades K-3. This year, the evaluation project was able to report on program effects at 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

- **MSRP students have significantly higher teacher ratings of academic and social behaviors at 4<sup>th</sup> grade.**
- **MSRP students are significantly more likely to remain on-grade and have satisfactory MEAP scores at 4<sup>th</sup> grade.**
- **MSRP students have parents who are significantly more involved in school through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.**

On the average, MSRP classrooms demonstrate high quality. Many programs, using their scores from the *Program Quality Assessment (PQA)* tool, have focused on professional development as well as program goals and objectives on items in the PQA where scores were 4.5 or lower to assure systematic on-going program improvement. Programs interested in taking part in PQA training should visit the High/Scope web site [www.highscope.org](http://www.highscope.org) or phone (734) 485-2000.

## MICHIGAN ELECTRONIC GRANTS SYSTEM (MEGS)

The **MSRP State Aid Community Needs and Resources Assessment (CNRA)** is one of the first reports districts and public school academies will have the ability to submit on-line. The groundbreaking MEGS system is one of the first on-line grants reporting systems in the nation. The new system will vastly improve service and dramatically reduce administrative log jams. "We want to streamline the process of grants delivery for all schools in Michigan," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Watkins.

The key features of the MEGS electronic system will benefit all potential applicants by providing a variety of timesaving features:

- Allow the applicant to easily identify all required documents;
- One time entry of information;
- Enable the applicant to edit information on-line;
- Verify that all required forms have been completed before submission;
- Allow multiple users to work on the same application simultaneously;
- Provide the applicant with the status of the submitted application at any time;
- Provide immediate confirmation of the receipt of the applications at MDE; and
- Facilitation of grant reporting.

Once grant applications are submitted, the MDE processing time for the applications will be improved. Applicants will be provided access to MEGS through the district/psa/agency MEIS account. A training manual is currently being developed for on-line submission of the CNRA. The due date for submitting the CNRA will be delayed as training is developed. The tentative due date is March 21, 2002. Please check the Early Childhood and Parenting Programs web site periodically to remain up to date on meetings, information and timelines, [www.state.mi.us/mde/off/staa/earlychild/index.htm](http://www.state.mi.us/mde/off/staa/earlychild/index.htm).

## PEACE ON EARTH



Memories of September 11<sup>th</sup> will remain forever in our minds and hearts. As the horrible events of that day unfolded and we received sporadic reports in our classrooms and programs, it was hard to stay focused on "business as usual." However, like many of you, my day was spent in the midst of boisterous, whirling, smiling, active young children. They were what kept me grounded. While I thought throughout that day of how to keep them safe and secure in this crazy world, it occurred to me that they were what helped ME to feel joy and hope, to be needed and loved on that difficult day—and on all these days that follow. Though they were not aware, and we were careful to not share details of what was unfolding outside of their safe haven—it was evident that they sensed our fear and sadness. Spontaneous hugs and hands that suddenly appeared holding mine were plentiful—children are so intuitive! As we read and snuggled, talked, played and laughed together, it brought me back once again to my "touchstone," the reason why I do the work that I do. I reflected again on what a difference all of us—as teachers, parents, friends, directors, administrators, or in whatever role we work on a daily basis—are to the lives and the futures of children. But also, how their contagious joy and special innocence help us to maintain a sense of hope for better days to come. Peace and hope to all of you this coming holiday season.

Diane Wolter, President  
Michigan Association for the  
Education of Young Children

## THE INITIAL HOME VISIT

The initial home visit is an opportunity for staff and families to meet informally and begin to develop an authentic relationship. Research proves that children whose parents and teachers are partners in the education of the child do better in school than children whose families have not been involved. Today's families need many opportunities for choice in the level of involvement they are able to manage. For families who are not comfortable inviting the teaching staff into their homes, the initial meeting could take place in a location the family chooses. Some families might enjoy a cup of coffee at a local restaurant where the children have an opportunity to play or color. Others may choose a local picnic area or playground. Once the family begins to develop trust in the fact that teaching staff will focus not on the difficult circumstances of their lives, but on each individual family's strengths and interests, there may be other opportunities to visit the home.



Learning about children's families is as important as learning about ourselves. Providing real life meaningful experiences and materials in the classroom learning environment which will support and reflect the human diversity and positive aspects of each child's home, requires an opportunity to observe each family's strengths and interests. A high quality learning environment should include many open ended and real materials inspired by the diversity of the children's homes. Materials should include:

- Photos of family members and pets
- Real cooking utensils
- Music CD's and cassettes that are family favorites
- Work clothes representative of family members' job(s)
- Tools
- Eyeglasses
- Empty food containers for extending dramatic play

When families trust that the teaching staff will share control and learn from them while focusing on their strengths and interests, lifelong partnerships develop to enhance the education of their children.

For safety, and to encourage the team teaching approach, Early Childhood and Parenting Programs recommends both the lead teacher and the associate teacher go on home visits. As the guest in the family's home it is important to be responsive and informal. Dress comfortably and remember to get a *Permission to Photograph* form signed before taking pictures for use in the classroom. Always be reminded to honor the family's privacy with strict confidentiality. Details of the visit should never be shared with anyone other than the teaching team during professional meetings, and then only to plan a high quality learning experience which meets the needs of each individual child.

*"It is not possible to "grow" people  
unless you nurture their roots.  
You cannot lead them into the  
future without treasuring the past."*  
- Martin Luther King, Jr.

# Congratulations!!

## Eileen Storer

Eileen Storer, Consultant for Early Childhood and Parenting Programs, has been selected as one of ten 2001-2002 National Head Start Fellows. Eileen assumed her responsibilities for this honorary position in Washington DC in September 2001 and will return to her responsibilities with the Michigan Department of Education, Early Childhood and Parenting Programs, in September 2002. We miss her!

## Plymouth-Canton MSRP – NAEYC Accreditation

The Plymouth-Canton MSRP program has achieved National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation status. Congratulations!

### IMPORTANT DUE DATES

The ASAP-PIE Continuation Application for 2002-03 was mailed to ISD Superintendents and contact persons December 7, 2001. **ASAP-PIE applications are DUE January 14, 2002.**

Contact Jacqueline Wood with questions or concerns. Phone: (517) 241-4741 or e-mail [woodjac@michigan.gov](mailto:woodjac@michigan.gov).

The William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program Competitive grant applications are **DUE January 15, 2002.**

Forms and instructions for completion of the MSRP Mid Year Report will be mailed the week of January 21, 2002. The information required by the Michigan legislature and criteria established by the State Board of Education is important to High/Scope Educational Research Foundation as they continue to research the effectiveness and quality of the Michigan School Readiness Program. The MSRP evaluation is fundamental in the determination of continued and/or increased funding. Please review the instructions carefully and report factually. Information collected in the Mid Year Report is not used by Michigan Department of Education to determine future funding for your district/agency. Enclosed for your review and dissemination is a copy of the latest MSRP evaluation findings conducted by High/Scope Educational Research Foundation for the Michigan State Board of Education. **DUE February 28, 2002**

### EXCITING WEB SITES

The Michigan Department of Education, Early Childhood and Parenting Programs offers direct access to our web site at [www.state.mi.us/mde/off/staa/earlychild/index.htm](http://www.state.mi.us/mde/off/staa/earlychild/index.htm). MSRP contacts should visit our web site frequently to remain informed of current information and reporting due dates. All report forms and applications must be accessed through our web site as we no longer mail reports. Michigan School Readiness Program Updates must also be found on our web site as this **Update is the final Update to be mailed.**

A web site on **child health information** related to young children in group settings is now available. Caregivers, teachers and parents will benefit from visiting this site.

[www.med.umich.edu/em/childhealthresources](http://www.med.umich.edu/em/childhealthresources)

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) oversees the safety of playground equipment and many other consumer products. CPSC has a new web site that reports on safe products and offers free printable posters as well as a toll free hotline. [www.cpsc.gov/talk.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/talk.html)

## CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

**Program Quality Assessment (PQA) training is taking place on Friday, January 18, 2002** and will be sponsored by the Greater Ingham County Readiness Coordinating Committee. Those interested in participating should contact Jane Bobay at (517) 483-1521 or Mary Ann Shipp at (517) 325-6242. Enrollment is limited to 40 participants. Cost of the training will be based on the number of participants enrolled (about \$25).

### Michigan Collaborative Early Childhood Conference

January 23-25, 2002 - Hyatt Regency Dearborn

Conference registration deadline was December 28, 2001

Questions?? Contact Early Childhood and Parenting Programs (517) 373-8483.

**CONFERENCE NOW FULL  
REGISTRATION CLOSED**

### Lighting the Way With Language and Literacy, Playful Literacy and You! (PLAY)

Training Dates & Locations				
Group A	January 23	Ingham ISD	8:30-4:30	2630 W. Howell Road, Mason, MI
	January 28	Heartwood School	8:30-4:30	625 Hagadorn Road, Mason, MI
	February 7	(same as above)		
	February 20	(same as above)		
Group B	January 25	Ingham ISD	8:30-4:30	2630 W. Howell Road, Mason, MI
	January 30	Heartwood School	8:30-4:30	625 Hagadorn Road, Mason, MI
	February 11	(same as above)		
	February 22	(same as above)		

Questions about training? Contact Jan Bernath at (517) 244-1216

Questions about registration? (517) 244-1251

### Coming Together for Children Child Development Conference

Sponsored by Central Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children, Office for Young Children, and Lansing Community College Child Development Program

Arts and Sciences Building, Lansing Community College

Lansing, Michigan

February 2, 2002

For more information phone the Office for Young Children at (517) 887-4319 or (800) 234-6996.

### Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children Early Childhood Conference

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel and Grand Rapids Convention Center

Grand Rapids, Michigan

March 21-23, 2002

For more information phone (888) 666-2392 or on the web at [www.miaeyc.org](http://www.miaeyc.org).

## SAVE THESE DATES

**November 18-20, 2002**

**Supporting Families with Young Children  
Conference**

Grand Rapids, Michigan

**November 20-23, 2002**

**NAEYC Annual Conference**

New York, New York

November 20-23, 2002



## RECRUITMENT, REFERRAL, AND ENROLLMENT OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN

A copy of the memorandum to Directors, Head Start grantees and Delegate Agencies Lead Contacts, Michigan School Readiness Program Grantee outlining guidelines for local collaboration around the issues of recruitment, referral and enrollment of four-year-old children is enclosed in this final mailing of the MSRP Update. The guidelines, essential to the success of all of Michigan's funded preschool programs, as well as sample collaborative agreements and sample forms not included in this mailing may also be found on the Early Childhood and Parenting Programs web site. [www.state.mi.us/mde/off/staa/earlychild/index.htm](http://www.state.mi.us/mde/off/staa/earlychild/index.htm)

## REACHING EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PARENTING PROGRAMS STAFF

Lindy Buch	voice mail: (517) 373-9962 e-mail: <a href="mailto:buchl@michigan.gov">buchl@michigan.gov</a>
Reneé De Mars-Johnson	voice mail: (517) 241-0162 e-mail: <a href="mailto:demars-johnsonr@michigan.gov">demars-johnsonr@michigan.gov</a>
Cheryl Hall	voice mail: (517) 241-4766 e-mail: <a href="mailto:hallcheryl@michigan.gov">hallcheryl@michigan.gov</a>
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Jamie Kline	voice mail: (517) 241-4974 e-mail: <a href="mailto:klinejr@michigan.gov">klinejr@michigan.gov</a>
Cheryl Najm	voice mail: (517) 335-1580 e-mail: <a href="mailto:najmc@michigan.gov">najmc@michigan.gov</a>
FAX NUMBER: (517) 335-0592	

Please do not hesitate to contact the Early Childhood and Parenting Programs office at (517) 373-8483 with any questions!

**Thomas D. Watkins, Jr.**  
Superintendent  
of Public Instruction

August 1, 2001

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Directors, Head Start Grantees and Delegate Agencies  
Lead Contacts, Michigan School Readiness Program Grantee

**FROM:** Sandy Little, Director  
Head Start-State Collaboration Program  
Family Independence Agency

Lindy Buch, Ph.D., Supervisor  
Curriculum, Birth-Grade 12/Early Childhood and Parenting Programs  
Michigan Department of Education

**SUBJECT:** Recruitment, Referral, and Enrollment of Eligible Children

Local collaboration around the issues of recruitment, referral and enrollment of four-year-old children is essential to the success of all of Michigan's funded preschool programs. The goal of publicly funded early childhood education and care services is to provide as many eligible children and their families as possible with high quality programs that will help them to succeed in school and in their lives.

We recommend that local groups collaborate based on the following guidelines:

1. **The Michigan School Readiness Program requires that families who are income-eligible for Head Start services be referred to Head Start programs.** For the purpose of the Michigan School Readiness Program, income-eligible for Head Start means at or below the established poverty level. The on-site monitoring protocol for the Michigan School Readiness Program includes checking to make sure that these children are referred to Head Start; those who subsequently enroll in the Michigan School Readiness Program must have waivers of Head Start services on file. Local groups should develop their referral, recruitment, and waiver process to maximize the use of all funding resources.
2. Families with incomes above the poverty level who are receiving TANF services are also eligible for Head Start services according to recent guidance from the Federal Head Start Office. Local advisory groups determine how collaborative services and agreements will be handled for this category of eligible families. Michigan School Readiness Program preschools are not required to refer families eligible for Head Start services under this provision to Head Start. It is important that local groups continue to collaborate to make sure that all funding sources are utilized and that the most needy children receive the most comprehensive services for which they are eligible.

If you would like assistance in developing an agreement, feel free to contact a Michigan Department of Education Early Childhood and Parenting Programs consultant at (517) 373-8483. Sample collaborative agreements and sample forms may be found on the Early Childhood and Parenting Programs web site: [www.state.mi.us/mde/off/staa/earlychild/index.htm](http://www.state.mi.us/mde/off/staa/earlychild/index.htm)